

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) For use on an ad hoc temporary incident area network

a number of standard non-specialized transceivers, ~~said standard transceiver having no self-configuring capability for configuring itself to a communications format and frequency;~~

a number of standalone add-on modules for providing transceiver interoperability, each coupled to different one of said transceivers to automatically convert audio information available from the associated ~~said~~ standard transceiver to a common format and frequency assigned to equipment operating on the temporary incident area network ~~without using direct sensor data transmission~~, thus to assure that all non-specialized standard receivers on said ad hoc temporary incident network can intercommunicate;

a sensor coupled said module for coupling sensor data to said module;

a circuit at said module for uploading sensor data to said network; and,

a downloading unit at a node for downloading the sensor data carried by said network and for displaying said sensor data at said node, thus to reliably provide sensor data by using said network.

2. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, and further including a camera at said module for providing image signals as an output thereof, said uploading circuit uploading said image signals.

3. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein said image signals include video signals.

4. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein said image signals include still picture signals.

5. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said sensor is taken from the group consisting of location sensors, oxygen tank sensors, gas sensors, HAZMAT sensors, photo-ionization sensors and biometric sensors.

6. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, and further including an incident commander terminal having a display coupled to said node and wherein the sensor data transmitted over said network is displayed for said incident commander at the associated incident commander display terminal, thereby to provide said incident commander with situational awareness based on said sensor data.

7. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein said module has a location and wherein said sensor data includes information relating to the location of said module and wherein said display includes a map and an icon indicating the location of said module.

8. (Currently Amended) On an ad hoc temporary incident area network having equipment operating thereon:

a number of standard non-specialized handheld transceivers having audio in, audio out and push-to-talk outputs available external thereto ~~said standard handheld transceiver having no self configuring capability for configuring itself to a communications format and frequencies; and,~~

a like number of mini add-on modules each adapted to be carried by a different ~~said~~ transceiver and coupled to said outputs for at least automatically converting verbal communications associated with said transceiver to ~~the~~ a single frequency and a single format such that the use of said mini add-on modules establishes a common frequency and format regardless of what frequencies and format said standard non-specialized handheld transceivers are using ~~compatible with said network,~~ said mini module including circuits for transmitting said verbal communications between modules over said network in a bi-directional manner.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein each of said transceivers includes a battery and an external power connection contact and wherein at each one of said mini modules includes a power input connection contact coupled to said external power connection contact for the powering of said mini module from the battery of said the associated transceiver.

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 8, and further including a sensor coupled to said mini module, said at least one mini module including a circuit for uploading data from said sensor to said network.

11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 10, and further including a predetermined number uniquely identifying at least one of said mini modules, and wherein said uploading circuit uploads said unique identifying number.

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 11, and further including a camera coupled to said at least one of said mini module and wherein said uploading circuit includes a circuit for uploading the output from said camera to said network.

13. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 12 wherein said camera is taken from a group consisting of video cameras and still cameras.

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 8, and further including wearable sensors coupled to at least one of said mini modules adapted to be worn by the individual using said the associated transceiver, said sensors coupling data collected by a sensor that relates to events in the immediate vicinity of said individual to said mini module, whereby sensor data uploaded to said network and available at a node thereof is downloadable to said node for providing situational awareness of conditions in the